

OTAY RANCH TIMES

Your Link to Otay Ranch and Surrounding Communities

Saturday, November 22, 2003

Filipino World War II Veterans Victory! Bills Move to President for Signature

Congressman Bob Filner announced that a giant step toward justice for many Filipino World War II Veterans is close at hand. Two bills to guarantee health care, compensation, and burial benefits for Filipino Veterans of World War II, now living in the United States, have passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The bills now move to the President for his signature.

"Today is a momentous day in the fight for justice for Filipino Veterans of World War II," said Congressman Filner. "We are making concrete progress in securing fair treatment for many of these brave veterans. But my fight continues — and I will not rest — until we have obtained full benefits for ALL Filipino veterans — not just those who are now citizens of the U.S. All Filipino veterans risked their lives for this nation, and we must give them all the same dignity, the same respect, and the same benefits!"



Congressman Filner noted that the two bills should be seen as stepping stones to full and fair benefits for all Filipino Veterans of World War II.

The first bill, S. 1156, contains language written by Congressman Filner that will

give Filipino WWII veterans in the U. S. full access to Veterans Affairs medical facilities. The second bill, H.R. 2297, contains language also written by Congressman Filner that will increase the compensation received by Philippine Scouts in the U.S. to the full rate that they deserve — the same rate as other veterans. This bill also restores burial benefits to the Philippine Scouts in the U.S.

"The Filipino Veterans of World War II have been waiting for almost sixty years for recognition and fair compensation for their service to our nation," said Congressman Filner. "When President Roosevelt called on them, they were there to defend freedom and liberty. We must now recognize them as veterans and provide them with the benefits they deserve! The battle for health care has been won — but our fight for full equity continues!"